

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-17 have been amended. New dependent claims 18-20 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims 1-20 be reconsidered and passed to issuance in view of this response.

Priority

The Examiner has indicated in the Office Action Summary of August 1, 2003 that "Certified copies of the priority documents have been received." Applicants had not yet filed a certified copy of the 00123770.0 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) with the USPTO as of August 1, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request clarification from the Examiner as to the status of the certified copy for the present application.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has stated that the word "Ileakmax" appears to be misspelled in claims 10 and 11.

Applicants have made appropriate corrections.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

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Applicants have made appropriate amendments to clarify the issues raised by the Examiner. Claims 1, 7, 16 and 17 have been amended to include a limitation for comparing to a condition to determine whether the leakage current is "tolerable". Further, claims 1, 7, 16 and 17 have been amended to delete the limitation of the leakage current being dependent on a voltage difference between the first node and the second node. Regarding claim 6, "book" has been amended to "stage". Regarding claims 12-15, "hardware circuit" has been amended to "integrated circuit".

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kalb, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,177).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to more clearly define Applicants' invention. Applicants claimed invention is directed to using one voltage at pad 54 to determine whether a leakage current is tolerable or not (see FIGS. 2a, 2b; paragraphs [0049-0050]; and, paragraphs [0054-0055]). For example, referring to FIG. 2a of the present invention, when SDD 58 is turned off, a leakage current flows through SDU 56 and test area 70. SDU 56 acts like a resistor resulting in a voltage drop across SDU 56 which is dependent upon the leakage current. The voltage at pad 54 is given by Vdd minus the voltage drop across SDU 56. The receiver device 24 has an associated threshold voltage of VH and any input voltage to the receiver device greater than VH will result in the output of the receiver device (RDATA) to switch states (to match DDATA). For the case when the leakage current which is relatively small in magnitude, the voltage drop across SDU 56 will be relatively small so the voltage at pad 54 (which is connected to the input of the receiver device 24) will be greater than VH and less than Vdd. Thus, the receiver device 24 would detect a tolerable voltage at its input and the leakage current can be qualified as being "tolerable". For the case when the leakage current is relatively large in

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magnitude, the voltage drop across SDU 56 will be relatively large so the voltage at pad 54 will be less than VH resulting in the receiver device 24 not being able to switch its output state (RDATA will not be the same as DDATA). Thus, the receiver device would detect an intolerable voltage at its input and the leakage current can be qualified as being "not tolerable". Therefore, the present invention uses one voltage (pad 54) to determine whether a leakage current is "tolerable" or "not tolerable".

As the Examiner expressly states, Kalb, Jr. requires two voltages (V1 and V2) are required to determine a current characteristic to be compared to a screening condition to determine a defect within the semiconductor device. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Kalb, Jr. does not anticipate or suggest Applicants' independent claims 1 and 7, as amended. Kalb, Jr. are silent on using one voltage to determine whether a leakage current is tolerable or not.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalb, Jr. and further in view of Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,621,387).

As discussed above, Applicants believe that Kalb, Jr. does not anticipate, teach or suggest Applicants' claims 16 and 17, as amended. Smith et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies in Kalb, Jr. Thus, the combination of Kalb, Jr. and Smith et al. does not teach or suggest Applicants' claims 16 and 17, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been overcome.

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Prior Art Made of Record

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record, Ooshima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,354), and respectfully submit that Ooshima et al. do not anticipate, teach or suggest Applicants' claims, as amended.

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CONCLUSION

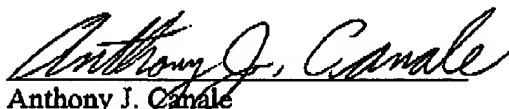
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Baur et al.,

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